

Client: Utah
Source: attitude (Main)
Date: 01 May 2011
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Reach: 75000
Size: 1283cm2
Value: 3977.3

UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED



Hang with me

With full gay marriage equality on the horizon, RICHARD BENCE buys a hat and recommends where to pop the question or hold the big day. Plus, idyllic spots for a heavenly honeymoon

LUXURY

Soneva Kiri Six Senses, Thailand

You get the best of both worlds on the

Thai island of Kood, since it is remote yet accessible. There, Soneva Kiri is set amid lush tropical rainforest. There's a private plane that will take you across the border to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, or you can just stay put



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and dine in a pod suspended 1,600 ft in the trees, served by a waiter who brings your food via zip wire. The outdoor cinema and Six Senses spa will keep you horizontal for even longer, and there's a self-sustaining Eco Villa for those wishing to be on the cutting edge of intelligent luxury. sixsenses.com

THE HIGH LIFE

You don't have to go to Thailand for a unique adventure. Opening this August on the edge of Snowdonia National Park, the Treehouse Experience with Red Letter Days comprises three beautiful treehouses, guaranteeing serenity and total escapism. redletterdays.co.uk

BEACH

Alila Villas Hadahaa, Maldives

If your idea of the perfect honeymoon is sun, sea, sand and, er, scuba diving, then nothing will float your dhoni boat more than this exceptional five-star resort in one of the most southerly, and untouched atolls of the Maldives.

At just over a two-hour transfer from the international airport, you will never feel more removed from the hubbub of city life. Don't fret, though, creature comforts await your arrival with your very own butler, activity concierge and team of staff who cater for every whim, from the luxurious

pampering Balinese treatments at the spa to the untouched house reef.

With only 50 beautifully crafted villas, 11 of which are over water, the best part of honeymooning at this modern eco-friendly resort is that you'll find it hard to bump into another person while enjoying the truly amazing spectacles of the expansive starry sky to the marine life below the still aquamarine sea (although you may bump into one of the occasional lazy turtles that grace the shoreline). JC alilahotels.com/hadahaa

DOG-FRIENDLY

The Rectory, Cotswolds

If you want somewhere stylish to tie the knot that also welcomes your four-legged family, then check out the quintessentially English The Rectory hotel near Malmesbury.

This stunning country house, owned by Jonathan and Julian, will provide you with every aspect of contemporary luxury for the perfect day: feasts of fantastic seasonal food, tailor-made cocktails, stunning indoor and outdoor spaces, 12 beautiful rooms. And if you need more space, you can expand into the award-winning gastropub opposite.

Jeremy Cox and Andy Wilson, who

hired The Rectory for their exclusive use for their civil partnership, can't recommend it highly enough. 'Nothing was too much trouble. Jonathan and his team really bought into our ideas and turned them into the most memorable day. Everything was exceptional from the warm and welcoming service through to the delicious food. All our family, dogs too, had the best day ever.'

The Rectory is one of the hand-picked places to stay for gay travellers on the website furtherafield.com, which profiles venues for civil partnerships.

SPECIAL READERS' OFFER

15% discount off the exclusive use price of The Rectory when used as a civil partnership venue.

GLAMOROUS

La Mamounia, Marrakech

This former palace turned 1920s grand hotel has hosted everyone from Winston Churchill to the *Sex And The City* actresses, and reopened in 2009 after a £94 million glam makeover by designer Jacques Garcia. With 16 acres of manicured lawns and orange trees, you feel protected from the madness of the medina outside the (guarded) gates. It was just voted the best spa in the world at the Condé Nast Traveller Spa Awards, so if it's pampering you crave, La Mamounia will souk you, sir. lhw.com



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ROMANCE IN A RIAD

Keep it real at one of Marrakech's rocking riads – townhouses with charming open-air courtyards. Tchaikana's Belgian owners have created a calming space with shabby-chic antiques and a romantic rooftop terrace. Rooms from £70. tchaikana.com

CARAVAN OF LOVE

Intrepid romantics can stay in an authentic Romany caravan in Wales. Nestled in a secluded wildflower meadow that is home to a family of otters, there's a picnic bench by the river that teems with brown trout. underthethatch.co.uk

REMOTE

Amangiri, Utah

Located on 600 acres in Canyon Point, southern Utah, the resort

blends into the natural surroundings where deep canyons and towering plateaus create a raw landscape of immense power. Lounge about like a lizard at Amangiri's spa or get physical with horseback riding, helicopter tours or hot-air ballooning. Of course, this is your honeymoon, so you may just want to stay between the sheets with your new Mr.

amanresorts.com

CITY

Le Pavillon Des Lettres, Paris

Le Pavillon Des Lettres is a boutique hotel based on a novel concept: each of its 26 rooms represents a letter of the alphabet and is dedicated to a writer: B for Baudelaire, S for Shakespeare.

The hotel has sweeping views of the Eiffel Tower and the Grand Palais, especially from the top-floor rooms. iPads replace traditional room directories, doing away with all printed material.

The hotel is very French, elegant and modern, and just 20 minutes from the Gare Du Nord for Eurostar.

pavillondeslettres.com

LONDON CALLING

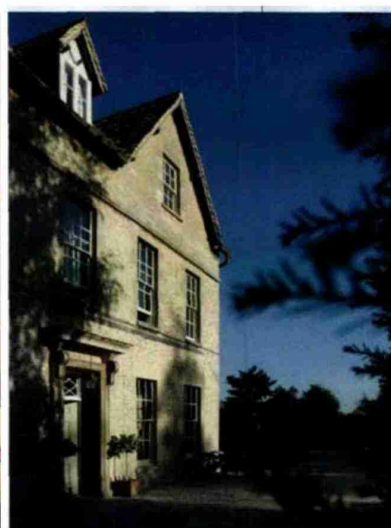
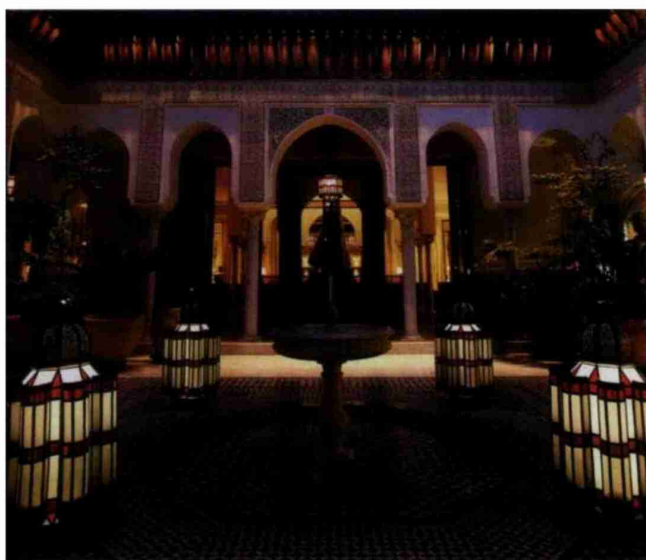
40 Winks, London

German *Vogue* called it 'the most beautiful small hotel in the world', and they might be right. Situated in East London, David Carter's home is a historic and elegant four-storey Queen Anne townhouse built in 1717. If you want understated opulence and a large dose of quirky style on your honeymoon – at a very affordable £140 a night – this place is the bees' knees. 40winks.org



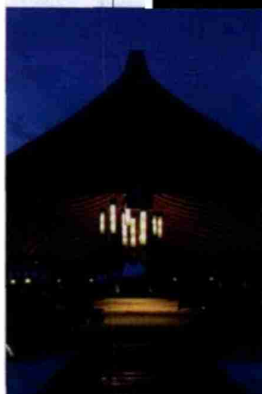
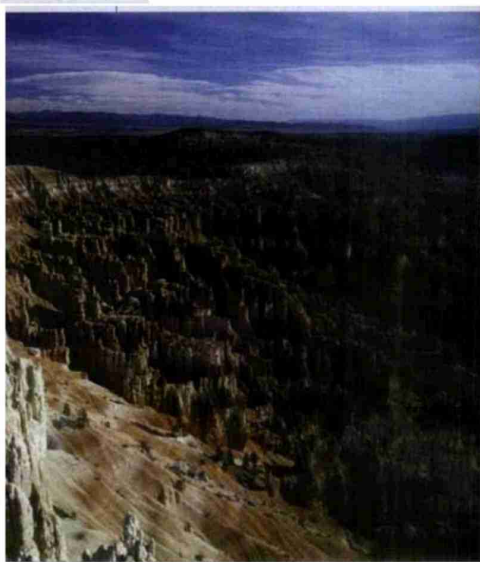
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Above la Mamounia,
Marrokech

Below Utah



Clockwise from top
 left Soneva Kiri in
 Thailand, The Rectory
 in the Cotswolds,
 and Alila Villas
 Hadahaa in the
 Maldives



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